



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Ben Brancel, Secretary

Date: December 30, 2015

To: Board of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

From: Ben Brancel, Secretary
Steve Ingham, Administrator, Division of Food Safety

Subject: Consolidation of Food and Recreational Safety programs – status report

Presented by: Steve Ingham, Division of Food Safety.

Requested Action: None; informational presentation

Programs regulating restaurants and vending machines will be transferred from the Department of Health Services (DHS) to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) effective July 1, 2016. This transfer means that food safety will be regulated by one state-level agency, with establishment inspections conducted by DATCP Sanitarians or local health department Sanitarians acting as agents for DATCP.

Recreational Licensing programs (hotels and other lodging establishments, pools and recreational water facilities, campgrounds, and recreational / educational camps) will also be transferred to DATCP on July 1, 2016. On this date, the Division of Food Safety will become the Division of Food and Recreational Safety. The Division will be comprised of the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, and the Bureau of Meat and Poultry Businesses.

The vision of the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses is for Wisconsin to be a national leader in supporting the growth and safe operation of diverse food, lodging and recreational businesses. The Bureau's mission is to ensure safe food, lodging, and recreation by educating and regulating businesses in a fair, effective and efficient manner.

A group of 12 staff from DHS and DATCP have served as a steering committee to direct the program transfers. The steering committee has been meeting at least bi-weekly for the past several months, first to identify tasks that must be done and work groups to address these tasks, and more recently to plan and offer employee and local health department agent webinars, to plan a new-bureau orientation program scheduled for April 26-28, 2016, and to review work group products.

Seven work groups are busily preparing for the program transfer. These work groups are 1) Human Resources, 2) Field Staff Support, 3) Office and Budget Support, 4) Metrics, 5) Electronic Information Management, 6) Agent and Non-Agent Program Relations, and 7) Regulatory and Policy Foundations. This presentation will highlight key tasks for each of these work groups and each group's accomplishments to date.

The presentation will also discuss the Bureau's plans for meeting nationally recognized regulatory program standards, and ideas for developing a new licensing structure that reflects the diversity and breadth of today's food and recreational businesses.

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